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OGC Has Reviewed

5 January 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING CHIEF, REFERENCE CENTER

SUBJECT: Copyright release for use of Williams Map Classification System.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum to the General Counsel, Subject as above, dated 10 December 1947, in which you request information regarding the legal implications of CIA use of the Williams Map Classification System.

2. The law has long indicated that a system as such is not subject to copyright protection. The copyright will protect the authors individual expression of his ideas, but one who publishes a system does so with the thought in mind that the system will be utilized by those who desire to do so.

3. For this reason, there seems to be no reason why CIA should not make full use of the Williams Classification System. No purpose would be served by having Mr. Williams sign a release.

4. The above opinion, however, does not mean that the Agency may make copious quotations from the explanatory text of Mr. Williams' book without his permission. They may, however, make free use both of the system and any forms which are included in the book.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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